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12 May 1954

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GENERAL

1. Peiping might agree to supervised Korean election in return for membership in UN:



The American delegation at Geneva believes that statements by Chinese Communist spokesman Huang Hua concerning the UN role in Korea may have been designed to

hint that the Communists would agree to UN-supervised elections in North Korea in exchange for admission to the United Nations. American officials feel that countries recognizing Peiping might be receptive to such an appeal, even though it would be a case of UN performance in return for a Communist promise.



Comment: Mao's regime has regarded membership in the United Nations as its right, not an issue for bargaining. Peiping may feel, however, that no concessions jeopardizing Communist control of North Korea are involved in Huang's proposal since it could circumvent UN supervision of the elections by manipulating the nominating procedures.

FAR EAST


2. Yoshida  will retire this summer:



Prime Minister Yoshida 

 plans to retire shortly after his visit to the United States and Europe. Possible successors named  are: Deputy Prime Minister Ogata; former deputy prime minister Joji Hayashi; former prime minister Hitoshi Ashida; and Shinsuke Kishi, an influential Liberal Party politician and leading exponent of constitutional revision.

Comment: 

 His retirement would remove the major obstacle to a merger of the conservative parties and hence promote political stability in Japan.

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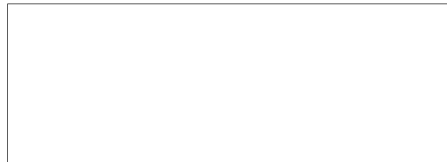
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Ogata is regarded as the most likely successor to Yoshida. Inclusion of Progressive Party leader Ashida among possible successors is probably the result of his active promotion of conservative amalgamation and his support of Yoshida in the 24 April vote of confidence.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. Laniel requests American military consultation on Indochina:



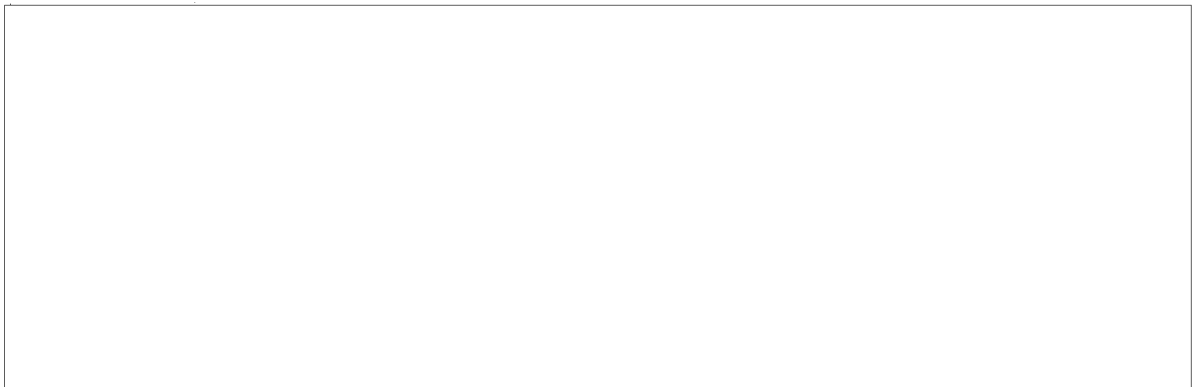
On 9 May Premier Laniel requested that an American general officer familiar with the Indochina situation be sent to Paris immediately to confer with him, Defense Minister

Pleven, and Chief of the Armed Forces Staff Ely. He said he would need American advice to make the military decisions necessary to the regrouping of French forces in Indochina.

Laniel told Ambassador Dillon that the Communists had made it clear to the French at Geneva that direct conversations with the Viet Minh were impossible and France must work through Communist China. He believes that only a threat of American intervention will influence the Chinese.

Comment: Laniel probably hopes that a renewed American threat to intervene would relieve the French government of pressure for an immediate settlement at any cost.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. American army attaché warns of danger of Israeli aggression:

The American army attaché in Amman reports an increase in border shootings between Israel and Jordan following the 9 May incident at Khirbet Ayaleen. He believes that the situation may lead to "general" firing across the frontier if measures are not taken to stop Israeli aggression.

Israeli troops ignored a cease-fire promise and fired on UN observer Hutchison when he arrived at the scene of the 9 May incident, according to reports to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

Comment: These events demonstrate the UN Truce Supervision Organization's inability to halt aggression in the face of Israeli noncooperation. Official Israeli policy probably tolerates sporadic border incidents in an attempt to force international action leading to peace between Israel and Jordan.

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